

Serial No. 10/084,821
Amtd. Dated February 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 23, 2004

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) – A shopping cart for carriage of merchandise selected for purchase in grocery markets, and department stores comprising
a wheeled carriage,
a rectangular basket and an underlying support for said basket included on said carriage,
said basket being made of resin and said support comprising in cross section a U-shaped metal channel member with its legs projecting upward which extends in bridging relationship across the width of the underside of said carriage in support of said basket, said basket having a groove on said underside to accommodate said channel member and its upwardly projecting legs in snug fit relation therewith.

Claim 2 (allowed) – A shopping cart for carriage of merchandise selected for purchase in grocery markets and department stores comprising
a wheeled carriage,
a rectangular basket and an underlying support for said basket included on said carriage,
said basket being made of resin and said support comprising a U-shaped metal channel member extending in bridging relationship across the width of said carriage in support of said basket
a pair of U-shaped metal channel members extending from the rear of said carriage upwardly and forwardly from opposite sides of said carriage into said basket in merged reinforcing relation with the opposite interior surfaces of the side walls of said basket.

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Claim 3 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 2 in which said upwardly extending channel members each have a bottom end projecting below said carriage,

a pair of rear wheels of said carriage each mounted at a bottom end of a separate one of said upwardly extending members.

Claim 4 – (currently amended) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 1 in which said carriage comprises a frame including a pair of U-shaped side channel members spaced across the width of said carriage extending horizontally from the rear end of said carriage to its front end,

a front bumper block made of resin extending across the width of said carriage to which the front ends of said spaced horizontal channel members are secured,

said channel member of said support being mounted on said horizontal channel members in upwardly extending bridging relation under said basket between said two horizontal side channel members.

Claim 5 – (currently amended) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 1 in which a handle is provided at the rear upper edge of said basket extending between the two sides of said resin basket and secured to said sides.

Claim 6 – (previously amended) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 5 in which the back of the basket is made of resin material and is pivotally supported directly from said handle and arranged for its bottom to be swung forward and upwardly within said basket about said handle.

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Claim 7 –(original) A shopping cart claimed in claim 6 in which the resin back of said basket includes a foldable child seat,

said seat having a front member at its bottom in pivoted relation with said basket back,
said seat having a generally horizontal seat member pivotally supported on said basket front arranged for upward pivotal movement and folding into said basket back,

said horizontal seat member having an underlying pivot rod connected to said seat front arranged to limit the movement of said seat back when said seat platform is extended in fully unfolded position.

Claim 8 – (currently amended) A shopping cart for carriage of merchandise selected for purchase in grocery markets, and department stores comprising a wheeled carriage,

a basket and an underlying support for said basket on said carriage,
said carriage comprising a pair of U-shaped metal side channel members on opposite sides of the carriage extending from the rear of the carriage to the front,

said side channel members at their front end being secured to opposite sides of a resin bumper block,

a pair of separate upwardly extending basket reinforcing channel members each connected to one of said side channels and extending into engagement with the interior of a side of said basket, each of said upwardly extending members having a lower end projecting below the channel member to which it is connected,

a separate wheel mounted at the lower end of each of said lower ends.

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Claim 9 – (original) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 8 including an upper cross-brace member extending between said spaced upwardly extending members which engages the rear edge of the bottom of said basket in supporting relation therewith.

Claim 10 – (currently amended) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 9 in which said underlying support comprises a channel member mounted in spanning relation between said side channel members in underlying communication with the bottom of said basket in a region forward of said upper cross bracing member,

a groove in said bottom for accommodation in matched relation the channel member spanning between said side members whereby said basket is supported in stable relation by said supporting channel member and said upper cross-bracing member in combination with said upwardly extending members.

Claim 11 – (original) A shopping cart as set forth in claim 10 in which a pair of spaced wheels are swivelably mounted in the underside of said bumper block.

Claim 12 – (allowable as herein amended) A shopping cart for carriage of merchandise selected for purchase in grocery markets, and department stores comprising a wheeled carriage, a basket and an underlying support for said basket on said carriage, said carriage comprising a pair of U-shaped metal side channel members on opposite sides of the carriage extending from the rear of the carriage to the front, said side channel members at their front end being secured to a resin bumper block, a separate upwardly extending basket reinforcing channel member each connected to one of said side channels and extending into engagement with the interior of a side of said basket,

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each of said upwardly extending members having a lower end projecting below the channel member to which it is connected,

a separate wheel mounted at the lower end of each of said lower ends,

an upper cross-brace member extending between said spaced upwardly extending members which engages the rear edge of the bottom of said basket in supporting relation therewith,

said underlying support comprising a channel member mounted in spanning relation between said side channel members in underlying communication with the bottom of said basket in a region forward of said upper cross bracing member whereby said basket is supported in stable relation by said supporting channel member and said upper cross-bracing member in combination with said upwardly extending members,

a pair of spaced wheels swivelably mounted in the underside of said bumper block,

each of said swivelably mounted wheels being mounted in said bumper block in a mounting assembly,

 said mounting assembly including a vertical swivel axle extending upwardly between said upper and lower bearings,

 said swivel axle including tightening means at its upper end securing said upper and lower bearings in assembled relation,

 a resilient washer provided in said tightening means above said upper bearing of said mounting assembly whereby tendency toward wobble of said wheel in its mounting assembly is minimized.

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Claim 13 – (allowed) A shopping cart for carriage of customer selected merchandise comprising

a wheeled carriage,

a rectangular basket made of resin,

an underlying support for said basket included on said carriage,

said carriage comprising a pair of U-shaped metal side channel members spaced across the width of said carriage extending horizontally from the rear end to the front end of said carriage,

said support comprising a U-shaped metal channel member extending in bridging relationship under said basket across the width of said carriage in support of said basket,

a pair of upwardly extending U-shaped metal side channel members each extending forwardly from the rear end of one of said side channel members into said basket in merged reinforcing relation with the interior surface of an overlying side wall of said basket.

Claim 14 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 13 in which each of said interior surface of the opposite sides of said basket is provided with a groove oriented and sized to receive in snug fit relation one of said upwardly extending metal channel members and securing means holding said upwardly extending metal channel member in securely fastened relation in said groove with the legs of said channel member facing the side in which it is secured.

Claim 15 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 14 in which said securing means comprises a series of T-nuts spaced along the length of said upwardly extending member, each of said T-nuts having a flat face positioned on the interior side of said basket to present a flush interior of said upwardly extending member with said basket interior.

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Claim 16 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 13 in which a handle is provided at the rear upper edge of said basket extending directly between the two sides of the basket.

Claim 17 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 16 in which the back of the basket is pivotally supported directly from said handle by spaced hanging members.

Claim 18 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 17 including child seat pivotally supported in foldable relation on said back.

Claim 19 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 18 in which said side channel members at their front ends are secured to opposite sides of a bumper block.

Claim 20 – (allowed) A shopping cart as claimed in claim 19 in which a pair of spaced wheels are each swivably mounted with resilient means to reduce tendencies toward wobble of the wheels.